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PROGRAMME AND BUDGET

PROGRAMME AND BUDGET FOR THE BIENNIUM 2000-2001

Note by the secretariat

Addendum

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I. INTRODUCTION

1. By decision 2/COP.1, the Conference of the Parties (COP), at its first session, adopted the financial rules of the Conference of the Parties, its subsidiary bodies and the Convention secretariat. In accordance with paragraphs 9 and 10 of the financial rules, the Secretary-General of the United Nations established the Supplementary Fund and the Special Fund, respectively.

2. Cost plans for the Supplementary Fund and the Special Fund for the biennium 2000-2001 have been prepared and are presented in this document for review by the Conference of the Parties.

3. The cost plans follow the same presentation as for the proposed core programme and budget, i.e. activities are presented by UNCCD programmes in within whose scope of work they fall, and a global summary and programme summary tables precede the description of proposed activities.

II. SUPPLEMENTARY FUND

4. Activities to be undertaken under the Supplementary Fund would include: those that may be decided upon by the COP during its third session but for which sufficient funding may not be available under the core budget; assistance to Parties in the preparation of their national, subregional and regional communications for consideration by the Conference of the Parties; and assistance in facilitating the preparation, adoption and implementation of national, subregional, regional and inter-regional action programmes at the request of the affected Parties. The supplementary programme also includes facilitation of the consultative and coordination process, as set out in the relevant regional implementation annexes; and assistance in promoting public awareness of the Convention. Such activities are carried out mainly under the programmes of substantive support to the COP and its subsidiary bodies, facilitation of implementation and coordination, and external relations and public information, and are described hereunder.

Table 1. Summary of Supplementary Fund estimated resource requirements (by programme)
(Thousands of US dollars)

Programme/expenditure items	2000	2001	Total
Programmes			
Support to the COP and its subsidiary bodies	399.1	242.0	641.1
Facilitation of implementation and coordination	6,683.6	6,351.4	13,035.0
External relations and public information	867.5	917.5	1,785.0
Subtotal programmes	**7,950.2**	**7,510.9**	**15,461.1**
Overhead	1,033.5	976.4	2,009.9
Total estimated resource requirements	**8,983.7**	**8,487.3**	**17,471.0**

Table 2. Summary of Supplementary Fund estimated resource requirements (by object of expenditure)
(Thousands of US dollars)

Object of expenditure	2000	2001	Total
Staff-related costs	717.8	717.8	1,435.6
Consultants and experts	846.0	775.0	1,621.0
Travel of participants and representatives	1,795.7	1,610.7	3,406.4
Travel of staff	497.5	510.7	1,008.2
Contractual services	452.5	452.5	905.0
General operating expenses	40.0	40.0	80.0
Supplies and materials	20.0	20.0	40.0
Acquisition of furniture and equipment	40.0	40.0	80.0
Grants	3,540.7	3,344.2	6,884.9
Subtotal	**7,950.2**	**7,510.9**	**15,461.1**
Overhead	1,033.5	976.4	2,009.9
Total estimated resource requirements	**8,983.7**	**8,487.3**	**17,471.0**

Table 3. Summary of post requirements under the Supplementary Fund

	2000	2001
Professional category and above: P-4	3	3
Total	**3**	**3**

A. Substantive support to the COP and its subsidiary bodies

Table 4. Resource requirements for substantive support to the COP and its subsidiary bodies
Supplementary Fund
(Thousands of US dollars)

Object of expenditure	2000	2001	Total
Consultants and experts	135.0	60.0	195.0
Official travel of staff	30.0	24.0	54.0
Grants and contributions	234.1	158.0	392.1
Total estimated resources requirements	**399.1**	**242.0**	**641.1**

5. Under article 25 of the Convention, the Committee on Science and Technology (CST) shall, under the supervision of the COP, provide for the undertaking of a survey and evaluation of relevant existing networks, institutions, agencies and bodies willing to become units of a network to support implementation of the Convention. The COP, at its first session, decided to undertake the first phase of such work (decision 23/COP.1). In the absence of a corresponding budgetary appropriation in the core budget, the initial phase was financed under the Supplementary Fund. In the event that the COP at its third session decides to continue with the second phase of the project during the biennium 2000-2001, a total of some US$ 949,200 would be required. In order to ensure the prompt planning and preparation of the second phase, provision is made under the core budget for part of the estimated costs. However, the balance for the project required for 2000 and 2001 is provided under the Supplementary Fund in the event that the COP decides to finance the balance of the project from voluntary contributions. Likewise, provisions are made under the Supplementary Fund for the balance of estimated requirements for consultancies and experts' travel and for official travel of staff in connection with the work of the ad hoc experts' panels on traditional knowledge and early-warning systems and the programme liaison functions with the scientific community and international organizations.

B. Facilitation of implementation and coordination

Table 5. Resource requirements for facilitation of implementation and coordination Supplementary Fund (Thousands of US dollars)

Object of expenditure	2000	2001	Total
Staff-related costs	697.8	697.8	1,395.6
Consultants and experts	661.0	665.0	1,326.0
Travel of participants and representatives	1,513.2	1,278.2	2,791.4
Official travel of staff	435.0	454.2	889.2
Contractual services	100.0	100.0	200.0
General operating expenses	40.0	40.0	80.0
Supplies and materials	10.0	10.0	20.0
Acquisition of furniture and equipment	40.0	40.0	80.0
Grants	3,186.6	3,066.2	6,252.8
Total resource requirements	**6,683.6**	**6,351.4**	**13,035.0**

Table 6. Post requirements for facilitation of implementation and coordination Supplementary Fund

	2000	2001
Professional category and above: P-4	3	3
Total	**3**	**3**

Africa

6. The Africa programme includes activities at national, subregional and regional levels. At the national level, implementation of the Convention is facilitated through the following:

(a) Support to the consultative and participative process to elaborate national action programmes (US$ 500,000 including funding for meetings and consultancies as well as participation of secretariat staff);

(b) Capacity-building: institutional support to strengthen the capacity of national coordinating bodies, development of training programmes for focal points and project managers, and review of the existing legal and budgetary framework. (US$ 550,000 including consultancies, grants for workshops, travel);

(c) Support to non-governmental organizations (NGOs): encouraging the participation of NGOs in Convention activities at the national level (US$ 375,000 including networking, training, awareness-raising, mobilization of stakeholders);

(d) Information support: assistance to affected countries in information management on issues relating to combating desertification and facilitating the development of mechanisms for the collection and exchange of data; promoting the networking of UNCCD focal points and related partners, at an estimated outlay of US$ 370,000 in grants; and

(e) Research programme support: assistance in the organization and convening of workshops on specific national research needs (related costs can be estimated at US$ 100,000, including US$ 85,000 in grants and US$ 15,000 for consultancies).

7. At the *subregional* level, it should be recalled that the relevant African subregional organizations (Permanent Interstate Committee for Drought Control in the Sahel (CILSS), Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD), Southern African Development Community (SADC), Arab Maghreb Union (AMU)) expect further support towards:

(a) Facilitation of the consultative processes, leading to partnership agreements, through subregional consultations, at an estimated cost of US$ 600,000, covering travel of participants (US$ 450,000) and of staff (US$ 100,000), and external translation and interpretation (US$ 50,000);

(b) Organization of awareness-raising activities and preparation of awareness-raising materials, through the provision of grants (US$ 200,000);

(c) Design of training programmes for focal points in the subregional organizations (US$ 200,000 for consultancies and US$ 50,000 in grants, making a total of US$ 250,000);

(d) Promotion of synergy and complementarity between national and subregional action programmes through transboundary integrated rural pilot projects (US$ 300,000 in grants, US$ 40,000 for travel of staff and US$ 30,000 for consultancies, making a total of US$ 370,000);

(e) Establishment of sustainable institutional networking related to combating desertification, at an estimated outlay in grants of US$ 250,000;

(f) Organization and convening of subregional workshops on specific subjects such as the integrated management of water resources, promotion of renewable energy sources, food security, early-warning systems and mitigation of the effects of drought (US$ 100,000 for travel of participants, US$ 20,000 for travel of staff and US$ 40,000 in grants, making a total of US$ 160,000); and

(g) Participation of NGO representatives at intergovernmental subregional meetings, and the strengthening of NGO capacity to contribute to the subregional process (US$ 100,000, comprising US$ 50,000 for travel of NGO participants, US$ 20,000 for travel of staff and US$ 30,000 in grants).

8. At the *regional* level and with a view to developing the regional action programme process, the African partners will be assisted through:

(a) Facilitation of the consultative processes at the regional level and of the formulation and follow-up of the implementation of the regional action programme in Africa (US$ 250,000 in grants, US$ 50,000 for travel of participants and US$ 10,000 for travel of staff, making a total of US$ 310,000);

(b) Support to the establishment of a regional coordination unit (US$ 117,500 for an officer at the P-4 level and US$ 200,000 in grants, making a total of US$ 317,500);

(c) Facilitation of thematic studies and of policy dialogue meetings on issues linked to implementation of the Convention (US$ 30,000 for consultancies, US$ 20,000 for travel of participants and US$ 10,000 for travel of staff, making a total of US$ 60,000);

(d) Support for the publication of an activity report for Africa (US$ 30,000 for consultancies and US$ 20,000 in grants, making a total of US$ 50,000); and

(e) Support for NGO participation in intergovernmental meetings, and strengthening NGO capacity to contribute to the regional process (US$ 25,000 for travel of NGO representatives, US$ 10,000 for travel of staff and US$ 15,000 in grants, making a total of US$ 50,000).

Asia

9. At the *national* level, support will include the following:

(a) Support to the consultative and participatory process to facilitate the conclusion of partnership agreements. Such support would be provided for meetings, consultancies and participation of the secretariat (US$ 350,000);

(b) Provision of institutional support to strengthen the capacity of national coordinating bodies for the preparation of national action programmes in approximately 10 countries (US$ 400,000 in grants, US$ 20,000 for consultancies and US$ 50,000 for travel of staff, making a total of US$ 470,000);

(c) Capacity-building for the development of a training module (US$ 30,000 for consultancies), and support to the holding of three training workshops (US$ 150,000 for travel of participants and US$ 45,000 for travel of staff, making a total of US$ 225,000);

(d) Support to non-governmental organizations: supporting the institutional capacity of NGOs; assistance to pilot projects in support of national action programmes; strengthening NGO networking and awareness-raising activities (US$ 300,000); and

(e) Awareness-raising and information support: facilitating support for national action programmes through awareness-raising workshops in the context of national action programme preparation in selected countries (US$ 60,000); the establishment of data collection systems (US$ 10,000 for consultancies); and translation of the UNCCD into local languages (US$ 10,000 for external translation);

10. At the *subregional* level, it is anticipated that the following support will be provided:

(a) The provision of substantive and financial support for two meetings to support partnership agreements for the further development of the western Asian subregional action programme, co-organized with the Global Mechanism (2 x US$ 40,000 in grants, US$ 10,000 for consultancies and US$ 10,000 for travel of staff: total estimated cost US$ 100,000);

(b) Organization of a workshop and provision of assistance for follow-up activities to address drought, water and land degradation issues in the South Pacific island countries (total cost of US$ 125,000, comprising US$ 75,000 for the workshop and US$ 50,000 for supporting the NAP processes and capacity-building in selected countries);

(c) Provision of substantive and financial support in 2000 to coordinate a subregional programme for the Aral Sea basin (US$ 40,000 in grants, US$ 5,000 for travel of secretariat staff, US$ 5,000 for consultancy, making a total of US$ 50,000), as well as support in 2001 for activities under this programme for an amount up to US$ 30,000 (total US$ 80,000);

(d) Organization of a consultation in countries of Central Asia to enhance cooperation (total cost of US$ 117,000 comprising US$ 7,000 for consultancies, US$ 10,000 for travel of secretariat staff and US$ 100,000 in grants); and

(e) Supporting participation of NGOs and strengthening NGO capacity in the subregional process (US$ 50,000 for 2000, comprising US$ 25,000 for travel of NGO participants, US$ 10,000 for travel of staff and US$ 15,000 in grants; and US$ 50,000 for 2001, making a total of US$ 100,000).

11. At the *regional* level, support will entail:

(a) Support for progress on the thematic programme networks. A total of US$ 420,000 is required (US$ 90,000 for consultancy, US$ 30,000 for staff travel and US$ 300,000 for the workshops);

(b) Convening of the third regional conference in Asia in 2000 (estimated cost of US$ 230,000, including US$ 200,000 for the meeting, US$ 20,000 for consultancy, and US$ 10,000 for travel of staff);

(c) Support for a meeting of selected national focal points in Asia in 2001 (total of US$ 90,000, including US$ 70,000 for travel of participants, US$ 10,000 for travel of staff and US$ 10,000 for meeting-related costs);

(d) Support for the establishment of a Regional Coordination Unit (P-4 staff post and secretary, travel, operating costs, overhead charges (total of co-financing US$ 117,500 per year for a P-4 level officer and US$ 50,000 in grants); and

(e) Support for NGO participation in intergovernmental meetings, and strengthening NGO capacity to network and coordinate their contribution to the regional process, particularly the thematic workshops (US$ 30,000).

Latin America and the Caribbean

12. At the *national* level, support will be provided for:

(a) The consultative and participatory process to facilitate the conclusion of partnership agreements. Such support would be in the form of funding for meetings and consultants, as well as participation of the secretariat staff (US$ 200,000);

(b) Participation in national UNCCD workshops, to support the national action programme process in five countries (US$ 65,800);

(c) Capacity-building to strengthen the capacity of focal points, and national coordinating bodies, and development of training programmes for project managers. This support would be provided in the form of funds for the recruitment of consultants, for the travel of experts, and for grants to organize and conduct workshops, particularly in Central American countries (US$ 353,400); and

(d) Institutional support: launching of 10 institutional support projects to strengthen the capacity of focal points and national coordinating bodies (10 grants of US$ 30,000 for a total of US$ 300,000 and US$ 100,000 for consultancies to assist in various aspects of institutional support, making a total of US$ 400,000).

13. At the *subregional* level, it is proposed that the following activities will be supported:

(a) Provision of support for a meeting with donor countries and agencies, with the aim of securing assistance for the protection of Hispaniola (US$ 37,500);

(b) Provision of support for a meeting with donor countries and agencies, with the aim of securing financial and technical assistance for the Gran Chaco Americano project (US$ 27,800);

(c) Provision of support for three training courses in the subregions of Central and South America and the Caribbean for administrators of the Information Network on Drought and Desertification in Latin America and the Caribbean (DESELAC) (US$ 75,400);

(d) Provision of technical and financial support for hosting a special training course on the implementation of the UNCCD in the eastern Caribbean countries (US$ 20,000);

(e) Provision of support for a six month consultancy service for assistance in the development of subregional action programmes for the eastern Caribbean and Central America (US$ 42,000);

(f) Provision of support for a meeting on assessment of the implementation of the Convention in Central American countries, an activity deemed very important to this subregion which is the most disadvantaged in the region as a whole (US$ 123,300);

(g) Organization and convening of a subregional workshop on watershed management (US$ 156,900); and

(h) Organization of a joint workshop with the Global Environment Facility (GEF) for eastern Caribbean states regarding the implementation of a subregional project on land degradation and biodiversity (US$ 43,500).

14. At the *regional* level, support will entail:

(a) Provision of financial and substantive support for the organization of the 6th and 7th regional meetings for Latin America and the Caribbean and the 3rd and 4th technical workshops in the Central American subregion, including consultancies and travel (US$ 526,400); and

(b) Provision of support for the Regional Coordination Unit, the body responsible for general coordination of all the projects of the regional action programme (US$ 220,000 per year).

Northern Mediterranean

15. At the *national* level, substantive support will be provided on request in terms of preparing and participating in meetings and working groups aimed at facilitating the implementation of the UNCCD. This would involve staff travel (US$ 60,000 for the biennium).

16. Support can also be envisaged in terms of support to stakeholders by facilitating the holding of NGO forums to raise awareness, to encourage their networking and coordination and to promote their participation in national action programme elaboration and implementation,; supporting NGO activities that generate

interest through the sensitization of the public at large, including the private sector, local government and authorities, women and youth (US$ 100,000 in grants for the biennium).

17. At *the regional level*, further assistance can be envisaged in terms of:

(a) Substantive support for and participation in the preparation of the regional action programme and other regional meetings;

(b) Consultative activities in awareness-raising and promotion of cooperation between institutions of the region, to facilitate and promote the implementation of the UNCCD in the northern Mediterranean;

(c) Awareness-raising and information support activities and the establishment of an electronic newsletter on the northern Mediterranean countries through the UNCCD secretariat web site; and

(d) Sponsoring participation of NGO representatives in selected regional and global events, in particular meetings on traditional knowledge and the COP, and strengthening their capacity to network and coordinate their contribution at the regional level (US$ 100,000 in grants for the biennium).

Other countries

18. This heading covers affected European country Parties to the Convention, which fall at present under none of the existing regional implementation annexes but have expressed an interest in combating desertification within the scope of the UNCCD. The Conference of the Parties, by its decision 11/COP.2, urged observer countries from eastern and central Europe to take appropriate action to become parties to the Convention, thereby facilitating adoption of the additional regional implementation annex to the Convention. Substantive support is being provided on request.

19. At the *national* level, support is envisaged to start the process of preparation of national action programmes, to strengthen national focal points and to assist NGOs in raising awareness and enhancing the role of women and youth. This support will include:

(a) Support for the consultative process for the preparation of national action programmes in six countries (US$ 70,000, comprising US$ 60,000 in grants and US$ 10,000 for travel of staff);

(b) Capacity-building: strengthening national focal points' capacities in six countries (US$ 100,000, comprising US$ 90,000 in grants and US$ 10,000 for travel of staff); and

(c) NGO support: strengthening capacities of NGOs in six countries in carrying out their activities aimed at the implementation of the Convention (US$ 60,000 in grants).

20. At the *regional* level, activities will be aimed at sponsoring, upon request, development of cooperation between interested country Parties to the Convention on matters related to land degradation, and may include:

(a) An expert group meeting to facilitate transboundary cooperation among neighbouring countries facing similar problems of land degradation (US$ 25,000, comprising US$ 5,000 for consultancies, US$ 15,000 for participation of experts and US$ 5,000 for travel of staff); and

(b) A workshop for national focal points of affected countries from eastern and central Europe to facilitate development of regional cooperation (US$ 60,000, comprising US$ 45,000 for participation of focal points, US$ 5,000 for consultancies and US$ 10,000 for travel of staff).

Interregional activities

21. In addition to the activities described above for the different geographical regions, it will be necessary to provide required support, monitoring and evaluation, in particular, to ensure that activities contribute to overall coordination between these regions and respond to global concerns.

22. Support will be provided for the following activities:

(a) At the global level, participation of a selected number of representatives of Parties in reviewing the partnership-building capacity of ongoing consultative processes (US$ 70,000);

(b) Development, jointly with the Global Mechanism, of a guideline manual on options and procedures for partnership-building (US$ 50,000);

(c) The programme of studies of the secretariat, through four studies to be developed jointly with concerned agencies (US$ 200,000); and

(d) A workshop on the linkages between combating desertification and biodiversity protection of drylands (US$ 100,000).

23. As regards specific activities at the interregional level, the third Asia-Africa Forum is due at a cost of US$ 150,000. A meeting to foster interregional cooperation between the countries of eastern Europe, the Transcaucasus and Central Asia is foreseen at a cost of US$ 100,000. The second Africa-Latin America and the Caribbean Forum will be held in Bamako, Mali, with the participation of a limited number of representatives from countries of Latin America and the Caribbean and Africa, and from institutions (US$ 75,000).

Summary of resource requirements for the programme

24. In addition to the core posts detailed in table 10 of document ICCD/COP(3)/2, more technical assistance will be required under the facilitation of implementation and coordination programme to assist in the development, monitoring and evaluation of support provided at the request of affected Parties. An amount of US$ 497,100 is therefore proposed to cover annual costs of three P-4 posts (heads of the Regional Coordination Units in the Africa, Asia, and Latin America and Caribbean regions), and related clerical assistance. The secretariat will continue to mobilize donor support for these specific requirements.

25. The activities outlined in paragraphs 6 to 24 above will require resources estimated at US$ 5,330,200 for Africa, US$ 3,342,200 for Asia, US$ 2,832,600 for Latin America and the Caribbean, US$ 320,000 for the northern Mediterranean, US$ 465,000 for other countries, and US$ 745,000 for interregional activities, or a total of US$ 13,035,000 for the biennium 2000-2001.

C. External relations and public information

Table 7. Resource requirements for external relations and public information
Supplementary Fund
(Thousands of US dollars)

Object of expenditure	2000	2001	Total
Staff-related costs	20.0	20.0	40.0
Consultants and experts	50.0	50.0	100.0
Travel of participants and representatives	282.5	332.5	615.0
Official travel of staff	32.5	32.5	65.0
Contractual services	352.5	352.5	705.0
Supplies and materials	10.0	10.0	20.0
Grants	120.0	120.0	240.0
Total	**867.5**	**917.5**	**1,785.0**

Coordination with non-governmental organizations

26. The participation of non-governmental organizations in the implementation of the Convention and their contribution to the meetings of the Parties is a necessary component of the successful implementation of the Convention. In order to facilitate the effective participation of the NGO community at all levels in the implementation of the Convention and on the basis of experience, the following activities are envisaged:

(a) Providing support to, and coordinating, NGO participation in the COP: for travel and subsistence allowance for NGO representatives (US$ 480,000);

(b) Secretariat support and facilitation of NGO preparations and coordination of the two half-day NGO/government dialogues during each COP (US$ 60,000 for the biennium);

(c) Providing support to NGOs at the interregional level with a view to facilitating the establishment of north-south and south-south partnerships (US$ 40,000 for grants for the biennium);

(d) Facilitating substantive and financial support for NGO initiatives aimed at contributing information and experience to the subsidiary bodies of the UNCCD. Support will be given in the form of five grants (US$ 100,000 for the biennium);

(e) Encouraging the participation of community-based organizations by developing mechanisms for attracting their participation at all levels; and

(f) Providing institutional support to NGOs to strengthen their capacity to communicate internationally and locally, by supporting their communicative and networking capacity (US$ 40,000 for the biennium).

Public information

27. As regards public awareness and in support of the objectives set out in article 19, paragraph 3, of the Convention, the secretariat will continue to facilitate communication with, and among Parties involved in combating desertification.

28. In particular, it will aim at promoting, on a permanent basis, access by the public to relevant information; facilitating development and dissemination of educational and public awareness material, where possible in local languages; addressing formal as well as informal educational programmes; raising awareness of the problem of desertification, of its globality, and its interrelations with other social and environmental issues, in particular, biodiversity and climate change.

29. In this framework, the programme of work of the External Relations and Public Information Unit will focus on five main areas as follows:

(a) Briefings: this will include, as a permanent activity, the holding of briefings for government missions, agencies and research institutions in order to keep them informed of the activities being undertaken;

(b) Publications and information dissemination: this will include writing, editing, translation, design, layout and printing or reprinting of miscellaneous UNCCD information. The activities proposed for the biennium 2000-2001 include the following, for an estimated total of US$ 210,000:

(i) Updated versions of the UNCCD information kits have been finalized in three United Nations official languages and need to be published and distributed in the remaining three (US$ 100,000 for the biennium);

(ii) The UNCCD newsletter: it is currently produced in collaboration with the UNEP Information Unit for Conventions (IUC) and the United Nations Office at in Geneva (US$ 12,000 for the biennium);

(iii) Other publications: printing and reprinting of other existing UNCCD publications (US$ 40,000 for the biennium); and

(iv) Translation of existing publications in other languages (US$ 58,000);

(c) Events, campaigns, awareness-raising initiatives: the UNCCD secretariat faces an increasing demand for information on the various aspects of desertification, its interrelations with biodiversity, climate change, food security and poverty; at the same time, it is requested to provide further support in disseminating information at the local level and/or to specific constituencies, through adequate tools. In this framework, initiatives for the 2000-2001 biennium foresee an estimated total cost of US$ 349,000, which includes costs of travel (US$ 25,000) and consultancies (US$ 15,000), and support for the following activities for the World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought, which could include:

(i) Organization of regional events and field trips for selected participants to affected areas (US$ 35,000); and

(ii) Initiatives targeting schools and youth: in collaboration with UNESCO and other agencies, the UNCCD secretariat will produce and distribute a teachers' kit aimed at facilitating the interdisciplinary approach to desertification and related issues. It will include a pilot phase, youth guide, selected case studies and two comics booklets (US$ 274,000);

(d) Media focus: media initiatives are mostly conducted in collaboration with UNEP/IUC, the United Nations Information Centre (UNIC) network, and other agencies as appropriate. For the biennium 2000-2001 the following initiatives are foreseen (US$ 150,000):

(i) Press seminars, distribution of press releases, regionally based briefings, press conferences and journalists' tours; support for participation of selected journalists in sessions of the COP (US$ 120,000); and

(ii) Press kit: in response to the specific requests for information by the media, this will be produced in collaboration with UNESCO, UNEP, FAO and used in all press-related events (US$ 30,000);

(e) Advertising and promotional activities: these activities would complement the programmed events and could include promotional items to raise the profile of desertification (US$ 50,000).

Information and library services

30. The purpose of the information services is to strengthen the role of the secretariat in facilitating the flow of information among the key participants in the UNCCD process, in particular national focal points of the Parties to the Convention as well as other intergovernmental and non-governmental institutions, in their efforts to implement the provisions of the Convention. The system will deal with information in various forms relevant to the specific needs of national focal points on policy-making, programme development and implementation, science and technology, education, training and awareness, at the national, subregional, and regional levels. The secretariat will play the role of a facilitator and clearing-house in providing information to partners, in order to more effectively fulfil its mandate in providing capacity-building and assistance to Parties, for the communication of information and review of implementation of the Convention.

31. As regards the library, it will work closely with other partner organizations to provide a facility where reference material will be kept and made available. The library will serve as part of the foundation of the UNCCD public awareness programme. It is anticipated that an annual provision for library subscriptions will be required (US$ 5,000).

32. Estimated resource requirements for specific projects and activities planned under the external relations and public information programme to be financed from the Supplementary Fund as detailed in table 7 are US$ 867,500 in 2000 and US$ 917,500 in 2001.

III. SPECIAL FUND

Table 8. Resource requirements for the Special Fund
(Thousands of US dollars)

Object of expenditure	2000	2001	Total
Travel of representatives and participants in meetings	1,400.0	1,400.0	2,800.0
Overhead	182.0	182.0	364.0
Total estimated resources requirements	**1,582.0**	**1,582.0**	**3,164.0**

33. Activities under the Special Fund relate to the facilitation of participation of developing country Parties, especially the least developed countries, in the UNCCD process. Participation of eligible representatives of affected developing and least developed country Parties in the fourth and fifth sessions of the Conference of the Parties, in the Bureau meetings and other UNCCD-related meetings, will be covered by this Fund. On the basis of experience to date and the anticipated increase in the number of eligible country Parties, related expenditures for 2000 and 2001 can be estimated at US$ 1,582,000 per year of the biennium.